RANGELAND HEALTH STANDARDS –ASSESSMENT
CRUMP INDIVIDUAL ALLOTMENT 0204

Standard 1 - Upland Watershed
Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage and stability that are appropriate to soil, climate and landform.

This standard is being met on the allotment.
The indicators used to evaluate this standard are Soil Surface Factor (SSF), which documents accelerated erosion; and plant community composition, which indicates root occupancy of the soil profile.

Soil Surface Factor (SSF) is an indicator of accelerated erosion and is a method of documenting observations regarding erosion. About 42% of the acres in the Crump Individual allotment (3,325) are rated as Slight which is the second lowest level of erosion in this methodology. About 40% of the allotment is rockland and 18% was not rated. There is an inclusion within the allotment where the SSF is near critical and other inclusions where the SSF is stable. The critical area is found near a drainage on a steep part of the slope. The area has been stable since 1994 as a change in the grazing pattern has increased ground cover. A copy of the form used to document SSF is attached (Appendix A, "Determination of Erosion Condition Class").

Another indicator of Upland Watershed condition is plant composition and community structure. Current plant composition is compared to a defined Potential Natural Plant Community for the identified soil type and precipitation zone. Using the 1988 Ecological Site Inventory, the percent of the acres in the allotment in each seral stage is summarized in the table below. Most of the allotment is in the Mid seral (42%) with 40% being rockland. There is 18% of the allotment that is unknown and much of this contains cheatgrass. The allotment is grazed early each spring to take advantage of the cheatgrass when it green and can be grazed. This grazing system actually reduces the cheatgrass competition and should improve perennial grass establishment. Therefore the plant composition and community structure is improving.

Seral Stage	Percent comparability to Potential Natural Community	Percent of allotment in seral stage
Early	0-25%	0
Mid	26-50%	42% (1409 acres)
Late	51-75%	0.1% (2 acres)
Rockland		40% (1319 acres)
Unknown*		18% (595 acres)

* The unknown acres are the inclusions within a vegetation community that include transition areas and plant communities too small to be mapped separately.

Standard 2 - Riparian/Wetland
Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning physical condition appropriate to soil, climate and landform.

The standard is not applicable to this allotment since no riparian areas or wetlands occur in this allotment.

Standard 3 - Ecological Processes
Healthy, productive and diverse plant and animal populations and communities appropriate to soil, climate and landform are supported by ecological processes of nutrient cycling, energy flow and the hydrologic cycle.

This standard is being met.

The Observed Apparent Trend (Appendix B) determined during the ESI and summarized in the Biological Evaluation (1994) showed an upward trend on 42% of the allotment with 40% being rockland and 18% being unknown. The Allotment Evaluation (1993) determined the trend to be static to downward when considering the photo trend stations and the professional judgment of the resource specialists. Since the Allotment Evaluation in 1993 there has been new fences and water developments done which divided the allotment into pastures and allowed some rotation during the grazing period. Also the grazing season has been shortened to take advantage of the cheatgrass in the early spring. As a result the utilization studies done since 1994 show a light use level on the perennial grass that is present. The trend photos taken between 1994 and 2002 illustrate a static condition on two plots and upward trend on one plot.

Standard 3 is being met for animal populations. The allotment is supporting the current and proposed number of mule deer and pronghorn antelope identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) management plans**.**

Noxious weeds are known to occur in the allotment. Mediterranean sage, Canada thistle, and bull thistle are common along the county road in small patches and as individual plants. The area is monitored annually and the weeds treated as necessary.

Standard 4 - Water Quality Standards
Surface and groundwater quality, influenced by agency actions, complies with State water quality standards.

This standard does not apply to this allotment.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Habitats support healthy, productive and diverse populations and communities of native plants and animals (including special status species and species of local importance) appropriate to soil, climate and landform.

Standard 5 is being met for native, T&E, and locally important wildlife species. There are no known sage grouse leks within the allotment, however, there are numerous identified sage grouse leks and habitat within the surrounding allotments. Sage grouse have been seen using this allotment at different times of the year, but livestock grazing does not appear to be impacting sage grouse use within the allotment. Peregrine falcons have been seen within the allotment, probably from releases from the Crump Lake hack site, however, no nesting occurs within the area. Bald eagles use the area in the winter feeding off dead waterfowl and other carrion.

Current Management and Recent Management Changes

In the last ten years the grazing plan has been to graze the allotment in the spring after the cheatgrass started to grow and move the cattle from the south end thru the two pastures to the north. The grazing period is about 4-6 weeks and is designed to use the cheatgrass when it is green and palatable and be off the allotment in time for the perennial grasses to grow and set seed.

Team Members	**Title**
Les Boothe	Range Management Specialist
Alan Munhall	Fishery Biologist
Vern Stofleth	Wildlife Biologist
Lucile Housley	Botantist
Bill Cannon	Archaeologist

Ken Kestner	Supervisory NRS
Robert Hopper	Supervisory RMS
Erin McConnell	Weed Management Specialist

Determination

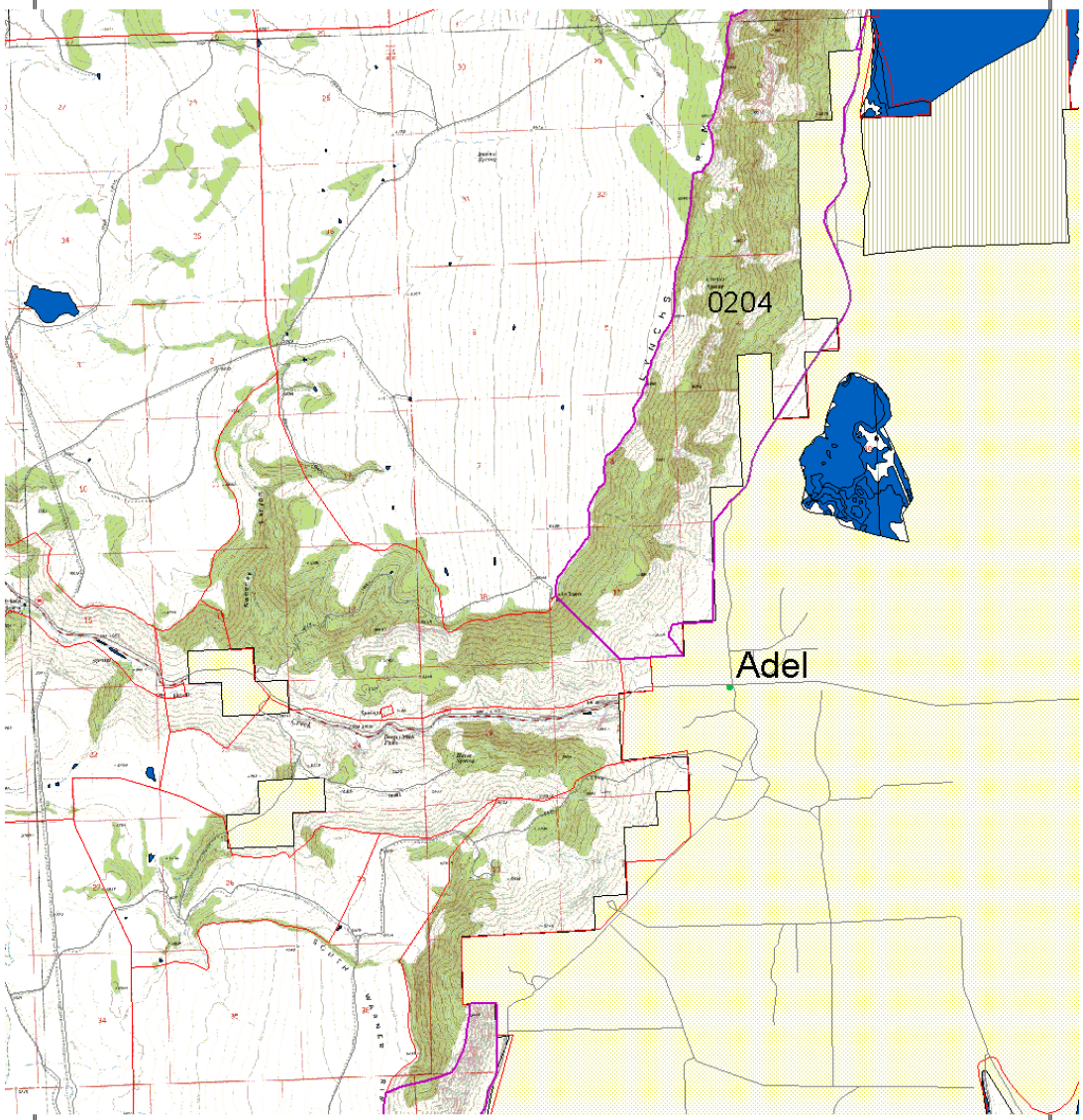
( ) Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Crump Individual Allotment promote achievement of significant progress towards the Oregon Standards for Rangeland Health and conform with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

( ) Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Crump Individual Mountain Allotment will require modification or change prior to the next grazing season to promote achievement of the Oregon Standards for Rangeland Health and conform with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

_____ _____

Acting Area Manager, Lakeview Resource Area Date

Crump204



Roads_100
Cities
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Resource Area Boundaries
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Les Boothe
9/21/02

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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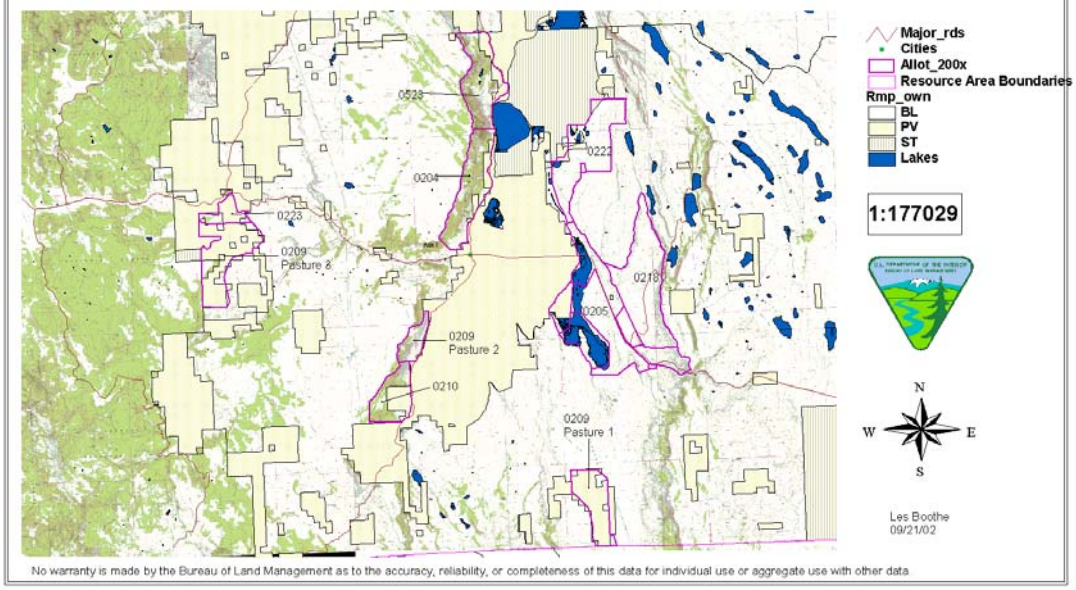
South WarnerAllotments



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Appendix B. OBSERVED APPARENT TREND

(Check appropriate box in each category which best fits area being observed)

VIGOR (10 Points)		Desirable grasses, forbs and shrubs are vigorous, showing good health. These plants should have good size, color and produce abundant herbage.
(6 Points)		Desirable grasses, forbs and shrubs have moderate vigor. They are medium size with fair color and producing moderate amounts of herbage, some seed stalks and seedheads are present.
(2 Points)		Desirable grasses, forbs and shrubs have low vigor. They appear unhealthy with small size and poor color.Portions of clumps or entire plants are dead or dying. Seed stalks and seedheads almost non-existent except in protected areas.
SEEDLINGS (10 Points)		There is seedling establishment of desirable grasses, forbs and shrubs. Seedlings are present in open spaces between plants and along edges of soil pedestals. Few seedlings of invader or undesirable plants are present.
(6 Points)		Some seedlings of desirable grasses, forbs and shrubs may or may not be present in open spaces between plants. Some seedlings of invader or undesirable plant species may or may not be present.
(2 Points)		Few if any seedlings of desirable grasses, forbs and shrubs are being established. Seedlings of invaders or undesirable should be present in open space between plants.
SURFACE LITTER (5 Points)		Surface litter is accumulating in place.
(3 Points)		Moderate movement of surface litter is apparent and deposited against obstacles.
(1 Point)		Very little surface litter is remaining.
PEDESTALS (5 Points)		There is little visual evidence of pedestalling. Those pedestals are sloping or rounding and accumulating litter. Desirable forage grasses may be found along edges of pedestals.
(3 Points)		Moderate plant pedestalling. No visual evidence of healing or deterioration. Small rock and plant pedestals may be occurring in flow patterns.
(1 Point)		Most rocks and plants are pedestalled. Pedestals are sharped sided and eroding often exposing grass roots.
GULLIES (5 Points)		Gullies may be present in stable condition with moderate sloping or rounded sides. Perennials should be establishing themselves on bottom and sides of channel.
(3 Points)		Gullies are well developed with small amounts of active erosion. Some vegetation may be present.
(1 Point)		Sharply incised V-shaped gullies cover most of the area with most of the gullies actively eroding. Gullies are mostly devoid of perennial plants with fresh cutting of the bottom.

TOTAL POINTS _____ Rating 26-35-Upward; 17-25-Static; 7-16-Downward